

04/12/1997

CTRM to make parts for Lotus cars

COMPOSITES Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) will enter into an agreement with Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton) and the Royal Selangor Flying Club respectively, tomorrow.

Its chief executive officer, Tan Sri Dr Chen Lip Keong, said the first agreement will see CTRM undertaking the job to manufacture composite components for Proton's Lotus cars.

"At the same time, we are going to sign an agreement with the Royal Selangor Flying Club for the sale of two new Eagle 150Bs," he told reporters in Langkawi yesterday after the signing of an agreement between CTRM and the Perak State Economic Development Corp (SEDC).

The two-seater Eagle 150B is a light aircraft conceived, designed and produced by CTRM.

Apart from the two agreements to be signed tomorrow, Chen said CTRM will also sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Denel Pty Ltd of South Africa to look into the possibility of manufacturing composite components for the latter's attack helicopter known as Rooivalk.

"The proposed signings will reflect CTRM's capability in manufacturing composite components for both aerospace and other industries," he said, adding Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to witness the signing of the two proposed agreements and the MOU.

The signing of the agreement with Perak SEDC as well as the proposed two agreements is being held in conjunction with the fourth Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition. Yesterday's signing saw Perak SEDC purchasing one Eagle 150B for its flying club.

Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib signed on behalf of the Perak SEDC while CTRM was represented by Chen. Costing some RM300,000, the Eagle aircraft is expected to be delivered to Perak SEDC early next year.

The signing was witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"We hope that the purchase of the Eagle 150B by Perak SEDC will lead to many more in the future and that other Malaysian flying clubs will also follow suit," Chen said.

He said currently the Eagle aircraft has received good response overseas, particularly in Australia.

"We have firm bookings of some 50 units of the Eagle 150B from overseas to date and I hope we can achieve the same result in Malaysia as well. We have also received serious enquiries from countries such as India, South Africa and Thailand," he added.

On its production capacity, Chen said the company is targeting to manufacture at least two planes per month beginning next year, and eventually increasing this to three units.

He also said local manufacturing of the Eagle aircraft has begun in CTRM's plant in Malacca. At present, the aircraft is being assembled in Perth, Australia.

"The Eagle aircraft is mainly used for three purposes which are recreation, surveillance and training. We hope to secure more sales in the country, especially in the recreational flying sector," he added.

(END)